



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

255 Westminister Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

Dear Educators,

I am pleased to ask you for your assistance in establishing the Rhode Island State Literacy Team. This team is being established as part of the *Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program State Formula Grant*. The *Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program State Formula Grant* is a new literacy initiative initiated by the U.S. Department of Education to assist States in creating or maintaining a State Literacy Team with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12.

The State Literacy Team is responsible for assisting RIDE in developing a comprehensive literacy plan. As you know, Rhode Island has already implemented the PreK-12 Literacy Policy and Personal Literacy Plan Guidelines. This will create an opportunity to build upon this previous work to ensure our comprehensive literacy plan reflects the needs of all of our students from birth through grade 12. In order to accomplish this important work the State Literacy Team will convene approximately once a month until completion of the draft of the comprehensive literary plan in February 2011 and on a quarterly basis thereafter.

To ensure that the Rhode Island State Literacy Team meets the required membership assurances set forth in the grant, RIDE is seeking nominations of individuals who have expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12. All individuals interested in becoming a member of the Rhode Island State Literacy Team must submit the following:

1. Nomination including a letter of Recommendation
2. Resume or Curricula Vitae
3. Membership Form http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/DOCS/reading/Membership_Form_for_State_Literacy_Team.xls

Please send all applications to Diane Girard at diane.girard@ride.ri.gov by October 22, 2010. Only complete applications will be considered for membership to Rhode Island's State Literacy Team. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Girard at diane.girard@ride.ri.gov or Colleen O'Brien at colleen.obrien@ride.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Gist

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